

Champions for the Bullied: Be on Standby Never Chained Talk Show with Nick Vujicic

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43:47

Would you actually be someone that, if someone teased me, that you would say to the aggressor, "Stop!" and that you're telling me that you wouldn't be one of their accomplices, where you're actually just laughing along, or at least, you don't do anything? You know, if you don't actually stop bullying, you're part of the problem.

[Never Chained Talk Show hosted by Nick Vujicic]

Hi, everyone. I'm Nick Vujicic, and I'm so excited and honored that you've decided to join me today for our Never Chained Talk Show.

To all of our donors first, and everyone who prays for us, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your love and your prayers and your support as we continue to preach the Gospel to all the nations and continue to stand in front of the gates of hell and redirect traffic. We're so grateful for you and your decision to partner with us, and I want to also invite everyone watching to join "The Circle of Champions" where you can be a part of what God is doing through the ministry--prayerfully, financially supporting us, and also in that, giving you, maybe almost like a behind the scenes kind-of-monthly-bonus content as well, to encourage your spirit in seeing how God is continuing to use the ministry of Life Without Limbs to be His hands and feet.

This month for the Champions for the Brokenhearted topic, we are talking about bullying, an issue that has been close to my heart for most of my life, but also now as a father of four, and always reflecting back as I continue to speak, on many stages globally through education systems about this topic. My heart is getting heavier and more concerned, especially for our youth. With the last three years and a past us, as many of the young generation is really isolating themselves from even talking to anybody about our feelings. We've gone from face to face, not just phone on the voice calls, but just text. And no matter what age we are, we know that going from voice calls to text makes it really easy and simple to hide our depression, hide our addiction, and hide whatever we feel inside from everyone.

You know, face to face, someone says, "How are you?" different than a text. And I want you to know that today, it's no luck, chance, or coincidence that I am speaking to you right now. And some of you know this year, we've been interviewing some of our amazing friends, some interesting champion nonprofit organizations who are making a difference in the different topics that we've chosen for the brokenhearted. But I'll tell you right now, I'm going to be the person to just share with you my 20 years of experience, personally, seeing young people from the

approach of the aggressor or the person who starts to bullying, to also the accomplice of the bullying, to the victim of the bullying itself. I want to help you understand that it's not just a one-dimensional, linear conversation. And I know, for me from a personal experience, not just as a child that did lead me to an attempted suicide at age 10, but also as an adult, where I do see bullying continuing to grow. So the question is, "Where did it really continue to grow? Has it stopped in some parts of the world or not?" Well, unfortunately, our world is full of human beings and every human being does have a human nature.

Human nature is selfish. Human nature, we kind of look at other people and not just judge other people on their status or their, you know, popularity or how intelligent they are, or who clicks with who, who's now dating this girl--and listen, man-- when you're in school, like middle school and high school, the average relationship only lasts about 2 weeks, 3 days and 45 minutes, and it's like it, you know, it's so shallow. You know that true love is not when you're just intimate with someone, it's when you say, "I do," and you get married to that person and you stay together, and you know that divorce is not an option. Why do we know that divorce is not an option? You read in the Bible, what God says about the family unit.

You read in the Bible, what it says about divorce. You read in the Bible how important it is to have a father figure in your life.

What does the Bible say about bullying? Well, what's interesting is, I think that the tip of the spearhead for breaking a country and dividing your country was first of all dividing within the home. What did that look like? Hollywood, media, TV shows, and movies. I want you to know I'm not actually getting off track of bullying. Just listen very carefully.

It's dividing of society, through the nation, starting with the home, and actually bringing sensationalism to something called division, where emotional affairs were seen as entertaining, or even cheating, or even thinking of cheating on your spouse... same thing with bullying. It was the beginning in the home and also then spread to the children in the home where it was entertaining and acceptable, then therein, where siblings would tease each other, where people in TV shows would tease each other. It's entertaining...same thing with comedy, saying the "F-bomb" every sentence.

It's acceptable. It's sensationalism. And so with media, with social media, with what we see other people do--what's really interesting is, I tell parents all the time, "Do you know that outside of mom and dad in the home, the second most influential, if you will, lead in a child's life, is

media, social media, their friends? That's right there, the three-legged stool of what's really going to influence your children's decision-making process. And so when we are thinking, "Okay, wait a second, Nick, this is too much information." No, what I want you to understand, because I know that parents are watching this, too. It is good to put boundaries on how much your children watch technology, go on social media, and movies.

It is good to put healthy boundaries on what types of media they watch as well. And I want you to know that you think maybe me telling you, "Listen to your parents a little bit more," and you're a teenager. That's not cool. No, listen, I'm gonna tell you right now. You might think that you know everything, and the world is around you when there are so many other smarter people than my mom and my dad. Now listen, there is some values and principles that I'm teaching my kids that I hope your parents are teaching you, and if they're not, I want to teach you that. And I want you to know that some of you actually might be saying, "Nick, the biggest bully in my life is actually my mom." "The biggest bully in my life is my dad, but he doesn't bully me. He just shouts at my mom every day."

When we see bullying, where do we go? When we feel bullied and we feel like we're in a dark room, where does the light come from? Well, first of all, I want to tell you that even though I had a loving home, and I went to church every week, I allowed the biggest bully to almost kill me. You want to know who it was? The powers and principalities of darkness that allow my head to echo the lies of the world. You go to school, and someone teases you it only takes three seconds for someone to put you down, but you lie awake in bed, listening to that echo. "You're not good enough."

You're ugly. You will never ever be anybody. There is no greater plan. There's no greater purpose for you. You think God has a plan for you? No way!" And those were the voices that were in my head as a little child. Now, you might look at me and say, "Wow, how could anyone tease anybody for having no arms and legs? Nick, if you came to my school, I'd never tease you."

Really? Would you actually be someone that if someone teased me, that you would say to the aggressor, "Stop," and that you're telling me that you wouldn't be one of their accomplices, where you're actually just laughing along, or at least you don't do anything? You know, if you don't actually stop bullying, you're part of the problem. Isn't that interesting? The whole delineation of going to school and witnessing bullying, where are you? If you're not the aggressor? You're not the victim? Are you the bystander? Are you someone on standby? And

why do you even fool yourself today to tell me, for real, that you would not allow bullying to happen to me? Why? Because you think that you would feel sorry for me? Why? Only because I have no limbs? What about the people that are being teased at your school today who have no dad, or whose mom is in a wheelchair or has cancer...or actually, they have an abusive father, an alcoholic father, who never gives them attention when they go home, except for when they do something wrong? They might be physically abused.

They might be verbally abused. Do you know that 1 out of 3 girls in America up until age 17 has been sexually abused, and 1 out of 5 boys in America up until age 17 had been sexually abused? What are the chances are that 30% of the people that you're not standing up for who are actually victims of bullying are actually being sexually abused at home? Why don't you feel sorry for them? Well, if I only knew! Now that you know that you don't know, now will you do something different? Is it that, that there is some measure of suffering that someone needs to go through before you pull out the card of grace?

Before you actually become a champion for the brokenhearted? How broken does someone's heart need to be before you stand up for them? How broken does someone need to be at your school and show you signs of suicidal thoughts before you actually start praying for them? It's interesting that Jesus couldn't do any miracle within His fully sphere of influence without faith and compassion. Let's start with compassion. Let's not talk about bullying in the head, intellectually, and knowledge and understanding and wisdom. Let's talk about the heart. Was Jesus a champion for the brokenhearted? You better believe it! You better believe it!!! He came for everyone. He didn't come for those who could button up their own shirt and look clean on the outside. He came for the broken. He came for the lepers. He came for the blind, the outcast, the demon-possessed, the addicted, the afflicted, the oppressed, the abandoned.

He came for the bullied, and He Himself, out of all people. Was Jesus not bullied? Was he not persecuted? Could He not have been someone who, therein, also understands with the compassionate heart, what verbal abuse is, what physical abuse is, what abandonment is, even from His Father as His Father turned His face away?

Talk about the person who understands bullying, someone who is not just a bystander. Would Jesus allow someone at His school, be bullied and just walk away? No, that's the hypocritical Christian. That's the Christian who goes to church on Sundays and prays for the naked but doesn't give clothes to the naked. That's those who go to church every Sunday and

gather at the youth weekly, and say that they're a Christian, but say the F-bomb and are sexually active, thinking that they saved.

That's the Christian who actually would start and spread gossip and think that it's okay within the church--hypocrites: blind, numb, deaf to the Holy Spirit. Do you see why we chose bullying as a topic for the brokenhearted? As I've spoken around the world, let me share with you what I do know about your school.

By the grace of God, I've had the incredible opportunity to actually do anonymous surveys in nearly 300 schools. I had everyone in the room bow their heads, close their eyes, and put one hand in the air. And I asked them if their answer to my questions was a yes, to simply put their hand in a fist. The first question was this: "Put your hand in a fist if you thought of committing suicide." 6-12%, pre-COVID, had thought of committing suicide.

Imagine 6-12% of all your school students, your peers, have thought of it; 3-6% of everyone you see at school had already attempted it. You can't see who they are. You don't know who they are. But they are. They're there. They have tried, and 40% of the reason why they've tried is because of a brokenness at home; 40% because of bullying at school. And that's why after doing an anonymous survey at that school, I then tell the school the results. And I tell them that if a speaker came to my school, and told me that a certain amount of students in my school had already hated their life to the point of an attempted suicide because of bullying and gossip at my school, I reframe the conversation and say, "If I was you, I would make a life-changing, conscious decision to never be part of bullying in any way, shape or form whatsoever ever, ever, ever again."

You want to know why? Because it's not worth it. It's not worth the humor, isn't worth the entertainment. It's not worth your ego. And it's not worth you maintaining a reputation of being the person that's okay with something that's actually not okay. If it's bad, why do people do it? Because the devil...because the devil. Wasn't Eve was bullied by Satan? Then Eve told Adam, "Well... we compromise." It was the devil altogether. But sometimes you're either the hands and feet of light, or you're the hands and feet of darkness. And the darkness doesn't flee. The darkness doesn't move. The only thing that changes is when the light shines. And for me, I want to be the person that moves in the light of Jesus in my school. Now it's not to say that you're not going to have some conflict, and, "Oh, well, we disagree and this and that. I'm just being bullied." No, no, no. Stay mature. Stay sharp. When you have a problem with someone, don't just

frame everything as bullying. Stop playing the victim card when you shouldn't be playing the victim card. Be mature, have intellectual, mature conversations. When there is conflict, find the resolution, have a mediator in between. Not everything is bullying, okay? And just because someone doesn't agree with what you believe, don't bully them by shunning them away and judging them because you think they're judging you. Just because I'm not Muslim, don't judge me for being Christian.

Just because they're Muslim, I'm not going to judge them for being Muslim, and I'm going to remain as a Christian. I'm not going to change my belief system just because there's a Muslim who won't change theirs. Does that mean you can't be friends? No. You can be friends. You can be friends with everybody else. Now, should a Muslim get more of a spotlight at my school than a Christian? No. Should the Koran and should the Bible be taught in every single classroom in every single school in the country?

No! You can go out and find and discover whatever belief systems you believe is going to be interesting to discover. As for me in my house, I am a Christian. And I will love everyone. And when there is a conflict, and even an enemy who hurts me, I'm actually not going to bully back, I'm actually going to forgive. And I'm going to pray for them. And I'm going to fast for them. That's what the Bible tells the Christians to do. And some of the other bullying, it's a little like, sneaky. "Well, I'm just going to tell everyone, this is how I'm different than everybody else. And everyone's going to know how different I am. And that's going to show how I act and who I'm with. And if you don't accept it, well then you're not with me. And if you're not with me, then you're against me, and you're..."

That's bullying, passive-aggressive bullying. So, let me ask you another question about bullying. "When is it okay to maybe even tease your friend?" Oh, we're just playing. Okay, you're playing. Is there any other way that you could maybe be funny other than at someone else's expense? Can you can you not be creative enough to do something else to say something else? When you see someone and you're, "Oh my gosh! Look at him!" [Ha-Ha-Ha} You're laughing with the devil!

You ever thought of that? You have got to stop. Every word counts. Every action counts. People watch you. You don't need to be a speaker, or an author, or a leader in your school on a student government representative board, or the cheerleading squad, or the football team to actually be influential.

People see what you say. People see what you don't say. People see what you don't do as well. Are you going to swim with the current or are you going to swim up current? You want to make a difference in the world? I won't believe you until you want to make a difference in your school. You tell me you're Christian, but you still gossip about somebody? I'm sorry. You need a reality check. You don't know my God. I'm not your brother in Christ.

You don't know Him? Because when you know Him, you know His compassion. When did Jesus ever tease, gossip, or put someone else down?

Never. He spoke straight, and He could judge. And, yeah, I am judging you, righteously. May the Holy Spirit prick our hearts for those of us who say we are believers, but deny Him by our lifestyle. God is not your God if you believe that it's okay to tease. For those of you who've been bullied, I want to tell you, "I love you." What does God say to you? "Hold on." Hold on to Him, and He will hold onto you. When the world says you're ugly and not good enough, read Psalm 139. "He knew your name before the earth began. He formed you in your mother's womb."

He knew this very moment, right now, would happen. And that this seed of hope, faith, and strength would be planted in you. For those of us who have been victim to bullying, don't give up. Your enemy is not the human. Your enemy is not the bully. In fact, do you know what I did? I tricked myself. I looked at my bully. And I thought to myself, "Nick, imagine that bully--he actually has had never a father. He has a disabled mother. And he feels lonely and out of control with the circumstances of his life. His coping mechanism is to try to control his reputation by picking on you."

I made that story up in my head. Why? Because that's the only way I could ask God to help me soften my heart and say, "God, help me to not hate him. Help me to not think of ill intent or thoughts or reaction back to him," because I know that's not what God wants me to do. In the testing and the trial of persecution, I know Jesus knows how I feel. And it's not for us to have justice. The King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Judge of judges will have justice with their soul. And it's not that I even want my worst enemy to go to hell. They're blind to the evil. So I asked God to help me to even pray for them, at least just once, not just forgive them, but to pray for them, that their scales of their eyes that are blinding them would be lifted, that they would see their evil, and that they would stop their evil, that they would find healing in their broken heart. Haven't you heard that saying, "Hurt people hurt others?" What if you were in a unique position

where you could be light in that person's life, and actually show them the love of Jesus Christ, when they least expected it. Some of us need to confront our bully. I've done that. Does it always work? No. But I looked him eye to eye and I said,

"Why are you doing this?"

"Oh, does it hurt you?"

"Yeah." It took humility to say, "Yeah, it actually does." I can put a strong face on. But it was amazing when God rocked up, when I allowed Him to stand up in that space, and I faced him and said,

"Hey, I love you."

He's like, "What?"

"Hey, give me a hug." He didn't know what to do.

I said, "I'd like you to stop that now." "It's not fair. It ain't cool. And it does hurt me."

You know what happened? Not only did he stop, and not only were we...and we weren't friends, but we were on OK terms. You know what happened? A seed of love was planted in that man's life, from the person who he least expected it from. That's light. Darkness can never expect light to come. By the time the light comes, it doesn't matter. The darkness is gone. That's how quickly God wants to help illuminate His love, His compassion, His light in your school. In the world today, there are 25,000 people dying of starvation. There are 80 million human trafficked people around the world. Many of us say to ourselves deep down within, "I want to make a difference in the world."

But I'm going to tell you right now, I ain't going to believe you that you want to make a difference in the world into you're already starting to make a difference in your school. Will you be generous with your words, and compassion, and your grace by the mercy of God? Forget about the generosity of the wallet that you think you're gonna have to then go help the poor later. No, no, no.

If you ain't generous and kind-hearted, right now in word, then you're not going to do it in deed, either. At 19, I sponsored kids, but I also stood up for the victims of bullying. When I saw peer pressure, whether it was verbally being directly shouting at or cyberbullying that you now have, which is directly or indirectly; gossip, when you hear someone start gossip, you don't know if it's the person who actually started or spreading it, but I'm going to tell you right now, you end it. You end it. You see someone physically hurting someone, you report that There's also sexual

abuse. Maybe you're being bullied. Maybe you know someone, maybe you suspect something going on.

Have those discussions and have the heart-to-heart talks with your friends if you need to. Have the heart-to-heart talks with those that you think are your enemy. And I'm going to tell you right now...to the bully. God calls for your abusive and violent ways to stop. It says in the Bible, "Give up your violence and oppression and do what is just and right," in Ezekiel 45:9. I want you to know that maybe some of the shame and condemnation and guilt upon you for being a bully or a part of bullying has weighed on you more than having a disability of having a life without limbs. Do you know that that shame and condemnation and guilt can be taken away? God offers complete forgiveness to those who turn to Him in real repentance. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness," in 1 John 1:9.

For those of us who are bystanders, who just watch all this stuff going on, God wants you to be someone on standby to help those who are being hurt by bullies. The Bible says, "Do not withhold good from those whom it is due when it is in your power to act." God will hold each person accountable for their actions, including bullies, and bystanders. God calls out the hypocrites. Don't pray for those that are naked. "God bless those who are hungry. God bless those who are naked."

No. Go and be the hands and feet. I love how the Bible also says, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" Hebrews 4:13. You might be hiding the fact that you're the biggest bully at your school from your parents, and you might lie to the teacher when your victims actually report you as the bully, but I want you to know that God sees it, and God will hold you accountable. And that that accountability, right now--that shame, that guilt can be forgiven and lifted off your shoulders. It is you and me, Christians, brothers and sisters, that God calls to stand up for the defense of the oppressed, the weak, and the bullied.

It says, "Defend the weak and the fatherless. Uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed" Psalm 82:3. So when I ask you, "Are you part of the bullying? Are you going to be part of the change?" Today, if you're not healed from bullying, first of all, write down the things that you're still thankful for in life. The "Attitude of Gratitude" helped me to get through my days of bullying. Second of all, talk to someone. Tell someone. Don't be a victim on your own. You

don't have to fight this alone. Speak to someone trusted. Thirdly, go and help someone else in need. That might be you, reframing you just existing at school, and being on mission at school, changing from a bystander to someone being on standby. I want you to know that whatever bad has happened to you wasn't from God.

But what the enemy tried to use for bad, God can turn it into good. The Bible says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" in Genesis 50:20. I want you to know that when God doesn't give you a miracle, you can still be a miracle for someone else. And sometimes when your life sucks so much, and he gets so dark, and it's just smelly, just to live from day to day, and you're in a room of fear and anxiety and isolation and oppression and weakness and loneliness,

I want you to know, yes, pray to God. Yes, reach out to someone else, and let them know you need their prayer. But one of the greatest ways that I was able to overcome my bullying as a victim was to go and defend someone else who's being bullied as well. I tried to do my best to tell everyone at school, you will never be friends with everyone, but let's not be an enemy to anyone.

I want to ask you, "Who are you? Are you the bully?" "Are you the accomplice? Are you the victim? Or are you all three?" Depends on what day I find you.

Let's make a life changing, conscious decision to stand up because lives are at stake. It's not about someone having a formula to stop bullying at your school. It's not when the teachers say, "Oh, we should do this." It's actually you. When the student body leads a movement within the school, that's when it's successful, not when an adult tells your peers what to do.

It's when you tell your peers and more peers around you say, "Yes, we decide that from here on out, we're just not going to participate in it. It's done." Here's a wristband campaign, here is posters up here.

Here are signs, people watching, on the lookout.

Not on my watch will someone think about suicide because of bullying at my school. I want to be the hands and feet. Amen? Let's pray. "God, we pray for bullying to stop in our school. We know that the first way that sin came into the world was bullying, and teasing, and questioning what was said to Eve. It was pressured upon her to do something that she knew she should not do. And God, I pray, first of all, for the believers, who's feeling the enemy's pressure to do something or say something they know is not right.

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Help us to be humble, to confess our sin and repent, to ask for forgiveness, and ask for Your strength to leave childish things behind. God, I pray for anyone hurting, who out of that hurt, is hurting others. We pray for healing, pray for restoration. We pray for Your Holy Spirit to touch their life. God, I pray for all my friends whose mom and dad are bullying them in some aspects. We pray for healing. God, we pray for all of our schools worldwide, that there would be a movement of student-led change, to stop teasing, whether we can see someone's disability or not, whether we can see someone's brokenness or not.

And help us to bring in that new standard of knowing that teasing someone—it just ain't cool anymore. It's not worth it. Help us God. Help us to be Your light. Help us to be Your hands and feet. Help us to be the leaders. Help us not to wait for someone else to be the change. Help us to be the change. Now, today. God, we thank You that we are here not just to exist and coexist and have an experience. No. We are here on mission to change the world, so help us to start at our school. Help us. Forgive us, and heal us, in Jesus mighty name.

And all God's people said, Amen." Well, it's been such a pleasure and an honor to talk to you today. And I truly believe that we can see this bullying pandemic actually come to an end. If you're interested in some resources or you're in need of support, I encourage you to visit Champions for the Brokenhearted" on our website lifewithoutlimbs.org.

And I want to invite those again who are passionate about serving the brokenhearted, to join "The Circle of Champions" where you can take part in our mission and help invest on the fields that God's given us to see more souls being encouraged and saved through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for being with me today. I love you very much. God loves you. Take care, and I'll see you next time.